

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice, please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 14 as follows and please add new claims 15-16 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A screw for use on hard materials, including concrete or masonry, the screw having

a shaft,

a head in the vicinity of one end of the shaft,

a tip, and

a thread extending for a plurality of turns in a spiral path around the shaft, wherein a series of cutting teeth are formed within one half turn of the thread and along at least one half turn of the thread, and wherein the cutting teeth have having equal but opposite sides and also have faces that are alternately and laterally offset to opposite sides of a longitudinal centerline the spiral path of the thread.

2. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 1, wherein the cutting teeth form sawteeth ~~disposed to opposite sides of the longitudinal centerline.~~

3. (Previously presented) A screw according to claim 2, wherein the sawteeth have transverse leading edges that are roughly radially disposed with respect to a longitudinal axis of the screw.

4. (Previously presented) A screw according to claim 1,

wherein the thread has a crest, and wherein along the at least one half turn of the thread, the crest is flattened, forming a plurality of narrow faces (12).

5. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 4, wherein the crest of the at least one half turn of the thread has cutting edges extending transverse to the spiral path longitudinal centerline of the thread.

6. (Previously presented) A screw according to claim 1 wherein the alternating offset of the cutting teeth provide alternating protrusions and notches along sides of the thread.

7. (Previously presented) A screw according to claim 3, wherein the cutting teeth have leading edges extending down from the transverse leading edges towards the shaft, said downwardly extending leading edges also being radially disposed edges (11,17).

8. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 1, wherein the cutting teeth are formed in a series with each tooth next to a succeeding tooth along a plurality of turns of the longitudinal centerline spiral path of the thread.

9. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 3, wherein the cutting teeth have sides with edges that are disposed along radii all the way down to the shaft of the screw.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 9, wherein the thread has opposite sides with an included angle between the sides of the thread that falls within the range extending from ~~around~~ 20 degrees to 30 degrees over an outer radial portion thereof that is disposed to penetrate the wall of a drilled hole.

12. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 9, wherein the sides of the thread extend down to transition zones having an included angle that falls within the range extending from ~~around~~ 40 degrees to ~~around~~ 60 degrees over the transition zones immediately adjoining its shaft.

13. (Previously presented) A screw according to claim 4, wherein the teeth are each offset from one another by a width of one of the narrow faces.

14. (Currently amended) A screw according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the following varies over the length of the shaft:

a number of the cutting teeth per unit length of thread,
and

~~shapes of the teeth forming a set of the cutting teeth, and~~
~~a depth of notches formed between the cutting teeth.~~

15. (New) A screw for use on hard materials, including concrete or masonry, the screw having

a shaft,

a head in the vicinity of one end of the shaft,

a tip, and

a thread extending for a plurality of turns in a spiral path around the shaft, wherein a series of cutting teeth are formed within one half turn of the thread and for at least one half turn of the thread, wherein the cutting teeth have equal but opposite sides and wherein the cutting teeth are formed along a rectangular face and have edges that follow the spiral path of the thread, with alternating teeth having a right-hand edge of one tooth face aligned with a left-hand edge of a next tooth face along the spiral path of the thread.

16. (New) The screw of claim 15, wherein the cutting teeth are formed in a series with each tooth next to a succeeding tooth along the spiral path of the thread.